

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Madeleine Clayton 10/22/2001  
Departmental Forms Clearance Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.  
Room 6086  
Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 08/30/2001.

TITLE: Northeast Region Gear Identification Requirements

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED

OMB NO.: 0648-0351

EXPIRATION DATE: 10/31/2004

BURDEN	RESPONSES	BURDEN HOURS	BURDEN COSTS
Previous	1,950,283	32,664	32
New	1,950,283	32,664	32
Difference	0	0	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

NOTE: The agency is required to display the OMB control number and inform respondents of its legal significance (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

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OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of  
Information and Regulatory Affairs

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# PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

**Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.**

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number <span style="float: right;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> None</span> a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated  5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) ( <i>if applicable</i> )	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public ( <i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden ( <i>in thousands of dollars</i> ) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection ( <i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting ( <i>check all that apply</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)  Name: _____ Phone: _____

## 19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

**NOTE:** The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
  - (i) Why the information is being collected;
  - (ii) Use of information;
  - (iii) Burden estimate;
  - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
  - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
  - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator or head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or Staff Office)	
Signature	Date
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature	Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
NORTHEAST REGION GEAR IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS  
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0351**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

**1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.**

The success of fisheries management programs depends on regulatory compliance. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to the enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. By being able to identify gear, enforcement personnel can identify permit holders that are using unapproved gear configurations or using gear at restricted areas or times.

The marking of gear is also a valuable tool in actions concerning gear damage, gear loss and civil proceedings. Gear is lost or damaged as the result of interactions between mobile and fixed gears. Being able to identify gear is important tool in identifying the parties involved in the loss or damage of gear and in identifying the reasons for loss or damage.

In the Northeast Region, gear marking is required in the NE multispecies trap and gillnet, pelagic gillnet, American lobster, scup and black sea bass fisheries.

**2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used.**

The regulations at 50 CFR 648.81(f), 50 CFR 648.84, 50 CFR 648.123(b)(3), 50 CFR 648.144(b), and 50 CFR 697.21 specify that designated gear belonging to Federal permit holders must be marked with the vessel's official number, Federal permit number or tag number, or some other specified form of identification. The regulations further specify how the gear is to be marked (e.g., location and color of marking). Law enforcement personnel rely on this information to assure compliance with fisheries management regulations and improperly identified gear is confiscated. The identifying number on fishing gear is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the U.S. Coast Guard, and state marine agencies in issuing violations, prosecutions and other enforcement actions. Gear marking imparts a sense of ownership that helps ensure that a vessel harvests fish only from its own gear and that gear is not illegally placed. Gear identification allows for easier identification and prosecution of violators, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement. Cooperating fishermen also use the gear identification number to report placement of occurrence of gear in unauthorized areas. Federally- permitted fishermen ultimately benefit, since as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred, more burdensome regulations can be avoided.

**3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.**

The requirement that fishing gear be marked with an identifying number or tag does not lend itself to improved technology.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.**

Because of the fishery plan development process, NMFS is aware of other fishery requirements. There is no duplication with other collections.

**5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.**

Nearly all vessels in the respective fisheries are categorized as small businesses. The collections will not have a significant impact on small businesses, and no special modifications of the requirements were considered necessary to accommodate the needs of small businesses.

**6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.**

The NMFS and U.S. Coast Guard could not enforce the fisheries management measures relating to gear if the collection was not conducted. There is no set frequency involved.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.**

No special circumstances require the collections to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the OMB guidelines.

**8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

A Federal Register Notice (copy attached) solicited public comments; none were received.

**9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

No payments or gifts are provided.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

There is no assurance of confidentiality provided. This collection is public information.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.**

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

**12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.**

The method for marking gear varies according to the type of gear. Gear may be marked with paint and paintbrush, or permanent ink applicator, and possibly a stencil. With most gear, the marking is by means of a commercially available plastic tag that is fastened to the gear by a wire. The tag number is assigned by NMFS and identifies the owner of the gear. The average estimated time to mark gear is one minute per gear. A near-shore lobster fisherman averages 600 traps per vessel, an offshore lobster fishermen averages 1,700 traps per vessel, a multispecies trap fisherman averages three traps, and black sea bass and scup fisherman average 300 traps. A multispecies gillnet fisherman averages 60 nets. A pelagic gillnet fisherman averages 2 nets. Given the adverse weather conditions and salt water, gear will need to be repainted, repaired or replaced annually. Table 1 provides a summary of annual burden.

Labor costs are estimated to be \$15 per hour.

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection.**

The costs to fishermen are minimal. Materials needed are paint and paintbrush, or permanent ink applicator, and possibly a stencil. With most gear, the marking is by means of a commercially-available plastic tag that is fastened to the gear by a wire. The tag number identifies the owner of the gear. Annual start up cost are estimated to be \$10 to purchase paint, and possible a stencil, or any tags. Total estimated cost per vessel varies depending on the type and amount of gear used. Given the adverse weather conditions and salt water, gear will need to be repainted, repaired or replaced annually. Table 1 provides a summary of annual costs.

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.**

There are no costs to the Federal government associated with the requirement to identify gear.

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.**

No changes are requested.

**16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.**

No results will be published.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.**

N/A.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.**

There are no exceptions.

**B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

This collection does not employ statistical methods.



TABLE 1. ANNUAL BURDEN SUMMARY

Gear		
Trap/Pot (Multispecies, American lobster, black sea bass and scup fisheries)	Respondents	2,607
	Burden Hours	24,093
	Annual Cost	\$26,070
Longline (Multispecies fishery)	Respondents	286
	Burden Hours	9.53
	Annual Cost	\$2,860
Gillnet (Multispecies fishery)	Respondents	360
	Burden Hours	416
	Annual Costs	\$3,600
American lobster near-shore trap fishery	Respondents	232
	Burden Hours	2,366.4
	Annual Costs	(Covered under 0648-0202)
American lobster offshore trap fishery	Respondents	200
	Burden Hours	5,780
	Annual Costs	Covered under 0648-0202)

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allocated under § 648.53, may possess and land up to 300 lb (136.1 kg) of regulated species per trip, provided that the amount of cod on board does not exceed the daily cod limit specified in § 648.86(b), up to a maximum of 300 lb (136.1 kg) of cod for the entire trip, and provided the vessel has at least one standard tote on board, unless otherwise restricted by § 648.86(a)(2).

(2) Combination vessels fishing under a NE multispecies DAS are subject to the gear restriction specified in § 648.80 and may possess and land unlimited amounts of regulated species, unless otherwise restricted by § 648.86. Such vessels may simultaneously fish under a scallop DAS.

(i) *State waters winter flounder exemption.* Any vessel issued a multispecies permit may fish for, possess, or land winter flounder while fishing with nets of mesh smaller than the minimum size specified in paragraphs (a)(2), (b)(2), and (c)(2) of this section, provided that:

(1) The vessel has on board a certificate approved by the Regional Administrator and issued by the state agency authorizing the vessel's participation in the state's winter flounder fishing program and is in compliance with the applicable state laws pertaining to minimum mesh size for winter flounder.

(2) Fishing is conducted exclusively in the waters of the state from which the certificate was obtained.

(3) The state's winter flounder plan has been approved by the Commission as being in compliance with the Commission's winter flounder fishery management plan.

(4) The state elects, by a letter to the Regional Administrator, to participate in the exemption program described by this section.

(5) The vessel does not enter or transit the EEZ.

(6) The vessel does not enter or transit the waters of another state, unless such other state is participating in the exemption program described by this section and the vessel is enrolled in that state's program.

(7) The vessel, when not fishing under the DAS program, does not fish for, possess, or land more than 500 lb (226.8 kg) of winter flounder, and has at least one standard tote on board.

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(8) The vessel does not fish for, possess, or land any species of fish other than winter flounder and the exempted small mesh species specified under paragraphs (a)(3)(i), (a)(8)(i), (b)(3), and (c)(3) of this section when fishing in the areas specified under paragraphs (a)(3), (a)(8), (b)(1), and (c)(1) of this section, respectively. Vessels fishing under this exemption in New York and Connecticut state waters may also possess and retain skate as incidental take in this fishery.

(9) The vessel complies with all other applicable requirements.

[61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 648.80, see the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

### § 648.81 Closed areas.

(a) *Closed Area I.* (1) No fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish, or be in the area known as Closed Area I (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request), as defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated, except as specified in paragraphs (a)(2) and (d) of this section, or unless exempt under the Sea Scallop Exemption Program specified under § 648.58 during the time and in the portion of Closed Area I described in § 648.58(b)(3):

CLOSED AREA I

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
Cl1 .....	41°30'	69°23'
Cl2 .....	40°45'	68°45'
Cl3 .....	40°45'	68°30'
Cl4 .....	41°30'	68°30'
Cl1 .....	41°30'	69°23'

(2) Paragraph (a)(1) of this section does not apply to persons on fishing vessels or fishing vessels—

(i) Fishing with or using pot gear designed and used to take lobsters, or pot gear designed and used to take hagfish, provided that there is no retention of regulated species and no other gear on board capable of catching NE multispecies; or

(ii) Fishing with or using pelagic longline gear or pelagic hook and line gear or harpoon gear, provided that

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there is no retention of regulated species, and provided that there is no other gear on board capable of catching NE multispecies; or

(iii) Fishing with pelagic midwater trawl gear, consistent with §648.80(d), provided that the Regional Administrator shall review information pertaining to the bycatch of regulated multispecies, and, if the Regional Administrator determines, on the basis of sea sampling data or other credible information for this fishery, that the bycatch of regulated multispecies exceeds, or is likely to exceed, 1 percent of herring and mackerel harvested, by weight, in the fishery or by any individual fishing operation, the Regional Administrator may place restrictions and conditions in the letter of authorization for any or all individual fishing operations or, after consulting with the Council, suspend or prohibit any or all midwater trawl activities in the closed areas.

(b) *Closed Area II.* (1) No fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish, or be in the area known as Closed Area II (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request), as defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated, except as specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, or unless exempt under the Sea Scallop Exemption Program specified under §648.58 during the time and in the portion of Closed Area II described in §648.58(b)(1):

### CLOSED AREA II

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CI1 ..... 41°00'	67°20'	
CI2 ..... 41°00'	66°35.8'	
G5 ..... 41°18.6'	66°24.8' (the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary)	
CI3 ..... 42°22'	67°20' (the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary)	
CI1 ..... 41°00'	67°20'	

(2) Paragraph (b)(1) of this section does not apply to persons on fishing vessels or fishing vessels fishing with gears as described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, or that are transiting the area provided—

(i) The operator has determined that there is a compelling safety reason; and

(ii) The vessel's fishing gear is stowed in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (e) of this section.

(c) *Nantucket Lightship Closed Area.*

(1) No fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish, or be in the area known as the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request), as defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated, except as specified in paragraphs (c)(2) and (d) of this section, or unless exempt under the Sea Scallop Exemption Program specified under §648.58 during the time and in the portion of the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area described in §648.58(b)(2):

### NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP CLOSED AREA

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
G10 ..... 40°50'	69°00'	
CN1 ..... 40°20'	69°00'	
CN2 ..... 40°20'	70°20'	
CN3 ..... 40°50'	70°20'	
G10 ..... 40°50'	69°00'	

(2) Paragraph (c)(1) of this section does not apply to persons on fishing vessels or fishing vessels—

(i) Fishing with gears as described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section;

(ii) Fishing with or using dredge gear designed and used to take surf clams or ocean quahogs, provided that there is no retention of regulated species and no other gear on board capable of catching NE multispecies; or

(iii) Classified as charter, party or recreational vessel, provided that—

(A) If the vessel is a party or charter vessel, it has a letter of authorization issued by the Regional Administrator on board;

(B) Fish harvested or possessed by the vessel are not sold or intended for trade, barter or sale, regardless of where the fish are caught; and

(C) The vessel has no gear other than rod and reel or handline gear on board.

(d) *Transiting.* A vessel may transit Closed Area I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, the Western GOM Closure Area, the

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Georges Bank Seasonal Area Closure and the Conditional Cashes Ledge and Gulf of Maine Rolling Closure Areas (if applicable), as defined in paragraphs (a)(1), (c)(1), (f)(1), (g)(1), (h)(1), (i)(1), (n)(1) and (o)(1), respectively, of this section, provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of § 648.23(b).

(e)-(f) [Reserved]

(g) *GOM Rolling Closure Areas.* (1) No fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish in, or be in, and no fishing gear capable of catching NE multispecies, unless otherwise allowed in this part, may be in, or on board a vessel in, GOM Rolling Closure Areas I through VI, as described in paragraphs (g)(1)(i) through (vi) of this section, for the times specified in paragraphs (g)(1)(i) through (vi) of this section, except as specified in paragraphs (d), and (g)(2) of this section. A chart depicting these areas is available from the Regional Administrator upon request (see Table 1 to § 600.502 of this chapter).

(i) *Rolling Closure Area I.* From March 1 through March 31, the restrictions specified in paragraph (g)(1) of this section apply to Rolling Closure Area I, which is the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

ROLLING CLOSURE AREA I  
[March 1–March 31]

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
GM1 .....	42°00'	(1)
GM2 .....	42°00'	(2)
GM3 .....	42°00'	(3)
GM5 .....	42°00'	68°30'
GM6 .....	42°30'	68°30'
GM9 .....	42°30'	(1)

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts shoreline.

<sup>2</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay.

<sup>3</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean.

(ii) *Rolling Closure Area II.* From April 1 through April 30, the restrictions specified in paragraph (g)(1) of this section apply to Rolling Closure Area II, which is the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

ROLLING CLOSURE AREA II  
[April 1–April 30]

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
GM1 .....	42°00'	(1)
GM2 .....	42°00'	(2)

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ROLLING CLOSURE AREA II—Continued  
[April 1–April 30]

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
GM3 .....	42°00'	(3)
GM5 .....	42°00'	68°30'
GM13 .....	43°00'	68°30'
GM10 .....	43°00'	(4)

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts shoreline.

<sup>2</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay.

<sup>3</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean.

<sup>4</sup> New Hampshire shoreline.

(iii) *Rolling Closure Area III.* From May 1 through May 31, the restrictions specified in paragraph (g)(1) of this section apply to Rolling Closure Area III, which is the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

ROLLING CLOSURE AREA III  
[May 1–May 31]

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
GM9 .....	42°30'	(1)
GM6 .....	42°30'	68°30'
GM14 .....	43°30'	68°30'
GM18 .....	43°30'	(2)

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts shoreline.

<sup>2</sup> Maine shoreline.

(iv) *Rolling Closure Area IV.* From June 1 through June 30, the restrictions specified in paragraph (g)(1) of this section apply to Rolling Closure Area IV, which is the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

ROLLING CLOSURE AREA IV  
[June 1–June 30]

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
GM10 .....	43°00'	(1)
GM11 .....	43°00'	70°00'
GM17 .....	43°30'	70°00'
GM19 .....	43°30'	67°32.0'
		or (2)
GM20 .....	44°00'	67°21.0'
		or (2)
GM21 .....	44°00'	69°00'
GM22 .....	(3)	69°00'

<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire shoreline.

<sup>2</sup> U.S.-Canada maritime boundary.

<sup>3</sup> Maine shoreline.

(v) *Rolling Closure Area V.* From October 1 through November 30, the restrictions specified in paragraph (g)(1) of this section apply to Rolling Closure Area V, which is the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

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[October 1–November 30]

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
GM1 .....	42°00'	(1)
GM2 .....	42°00'	(2)
GM3 .....	42°00'	(3)
GM4 .....	42°00'	70°00'
GM8 .....	42°30'	70°00'
GM9 .....	42°30'	(1)

<sup>1</sup>Massachusetts shoreline.

<sup>2</sup>Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay.

<sup>3</sup>Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean.

(vi) *Rolling Closure Area VI*. From February 1 through February 28, or February 29 if applicable, the restrictions specified in paragraph (g)(1) of this section apply to Rolling Closure Area VI, which is the area bounded by the straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

### ROLLING CLOSURE AREA VI

[February 1 - February 28]

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.(1)
GM1 .....	42°00'	(2)
GM2 .....	42°00'	(3)
GM3 .....	42°00'	(4)
GM4 .....	42°00'	70°00'
GM8 .....	42°30'	70°00'
GM9 .....	42°30'	(2)

<sup>1</sup>or other intersecting line:

<sup>2</sup>Massachusetts shoreline

<sup>3</sup>Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay

<sup>4</sup>Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean

(2) Paragraph (g)(1) of this section does not apply to persons aboard fishing vessels or fishing vessels:

(i) That have not been issued a multispecies permit and that are fishing exclusively in state waters;

(ii) That are fishing with or using exempted gear as defined under this part, subject to the restrictions on midwater trawl gear in paragraph (a)(2)(iii) of this section, and excluding pelagic gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies, except for vessels fishing with a single pelagic gillnet, not longer than 300 ft (91.44 m) and not greater than 6 ft (1.83 m) deep, with a maximum mesh size of 3 inches (7.62 cm), provided:

(A) The net is attached to the boat and fished in the upper two-thirds of the water column;

(B) The net is marked with the owner's name and vessel identification number;

(C) There is no retention of regulated species; and

(D) There is no other gear on board capable of catching NE multispecies;

(iii) That are fishing under charter/ party or recreational regulations, provided that—

(A) For vessels fishing under charter/ party regulations, it has on board a letter of authorization issued by the Regional Administrator, which is valid for a minimum enrollment period of 3 months;

(B) Fish harvested or possessed by the vessel are not sold or intended for trade, barter or sale regardless of where the fish are caught;

(C) The vessel has no gear other than rod and reel or handline gear on board; and

(D) The vessel does not use any DAS during the entire period of enrollment.

(iv) That are fishing with or using scallop dredge gear when fishing under a scallop DAS or when lawfully fishing in the Scallop Dredge Fishery Exemption Area as described in §648.80(a)(10), provided the vessel does not retain any regulated multispecies during a trip, or on any part of a trip.

(v) That are fishing in the Raised Footrope Trawl Exempted Whiting Fishery, as specified in §648.80(a)(14), and in the Gulf of Maine Rolling Closure Area V, as specified in paragraph (g)(1)(v) of this section.

(h) *Cashes Ledge Closure Area*. (1) From July 1 through October 31, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish in, or be in, and no fishing gear capable of catching NE multispecies, unless otherwise allowed in this part, may be in, or on board a vessel in, the area known as the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, as defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated, except as specified in paragraphs (d) and (h)(2) of this section:

### CASHES LEDGE CLOSURE AREA

[July 1–October 31]

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
CL1 .....	43°07'	69°02'
CL2 .....	42°49.5'	68°46'
CL3 .....	42°46.5'	68°50.5'
CL4 .....	42°43.5'	68°58.5'
CL5 .....	42°42.5'	69°17.5'
CL6 .....	42°49.5'	69°26'
CL1 .....	43°07'	69°02'

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(i) A chart depicting this area is available from the Regional Administrator upon request (see Table 1 to §600.502 of this chapter)).

(ii) [Reserved]

(2) Paragraph (h)(1) of this section does not apply to persons on fishing vessels or fishing vessels:

(i) That meet the criteria in paragraph (g)(2)(ii), (iii), or (iv) of this section.

(ii) [Reserved]

(i) *Western GOM Area Closure.* (1) From May 1, 1998, through April 30, 2002, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish in, or be in and no fishing gear capable of catching multispecies, unless otherwise allowed in this part, may be in, or on board a vessel in, the area known as the Western GOM Area Closure (a chart depicting this area is available from the Regional Administrator upon request, see Table 1 to §600.502 of this chapter), as defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated, except as specified in paragraphs (d) and (i)(2) of this section:

WESTERN GOM AREA CLOSURE

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
WGM1 .....	42°15'	70°15'
WGM2 .....	42°15'	69°55'
WGM3 .....	43°15'	69°55'
WGM4 .....	43°15'	70°15'
WGM1 .....	42°15'	70°15'

(2) Paragraph (i)(1) of this section does not apply to persons on fishing vessels or fishing vessels that meet the criteria in paragraph (g)(2)(ii) or (iii) of this section.

(j) *Restricted Gear Area I.* (1) Restricted Gear Area I is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
<b>Inshore Boundary</b>		
to 120 .....		
69 .....	40°07.9' N.	68°36.0' W.
70 .....	40°07.2' N.	68°38.4' W.
71 .....	40°06.9' N.	68°46.5' W.
73 .....	40°08.1' N.	68°51.0' W.
74 .....	40°05.7' N.	68°52.4' W.
75 .....	40°03.6' N.	68°57.2' W.
76 .....	40°03.65' N.	69°00.0' W.
77 .....	40°04.35' N.	69°00.5' W.
78 .....	40°05.2' N.	69°00.5' W.
79 .....	40°05.3' N.	69°01.1' W.
80 .....	40°08.9' N.	69°01.75' W.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
81 .....	40°11.0' N.	69°03.8' W.
82 .....	40°11.6' N.	69°05.4' W.
83 .....	40°10.25' N.	69°04.4' W.
84 .....	40°09.75' N.	69°04.15' W.
85 .....	40°08.45' N.	69°03.6' W.
86 .....	40°05.65' N.	69°03.55' W.
87 .....	40°04.1' N.	69°03.9' W.
88 .....	40°02.65' N.	69°05.6' W.
89 .....	40°02.00' N.	69°08.35' W.
90 .....	40°02.65' N.	69°11.15' W.
91 .....	40°00.05' N.	69°14.6' W.
92 .....	39°57.8' N.	69°20.35' W.
93 .....	39°56.65' N.	69°24.4' W.
94 .....	39°56.1' N.	69°26.35' W.
95 .....	39°56.55' N.	69°34.1' W.
96 .....	39°57.85' N.	69°35.5' W.
97 .....	40°00.65' N.	69°36.5' W.
98 .....	40°00.9' N.	69°37.3' W.
99 .....	39°59.15' N.	69°37.3' W.
100 .....	39°58.8' N.	69°38.45' W.
102 .....	39°56.2' N.	69°40.2' W.
103 .....	39°55.75' N.	69°41.4' W.
104 .....	39°56.7' N.	69°53.6' W.
105 .....	39°57.55' N.	69°54.05' W.
106 .....	39°57.4' N.	69°55.9' W.
107 .....	39°56.9' N.	69°57.45' W.
108 .....	39°58.25' N.	70°03.0' W.
110 .....	39°59.2' N.	70°04.9' W.
111 .....	40°00.7' N.	70°08.7' W.
112 .....	40°03.75' N.	70°10.15' W.
115 .....	40°05.2' N.	70°10.9' W.
116 .....	40°02.45' N.	70°14.1' W.
119 .....	40°02.75' N.	70°16.1' W.
to 181 .....		

Offshore Boundary

to 69 .....		
120 .....	40°06.4' N.	68°35.8' W.
121 .....	40°05.25' N.	68°39.3' W.
122 .....	40°05.4' N.	68°44.5' W.
123 .....	40°06.0' N.	68°46.5' W.
124 .....	40°07.4' N.	68°49.6' W.
125 .....	40°05.55' N.	68°49.8' W.
126 .....	40°03.9' N.	68°51.7' W.
127 .....	40°02.25' N.	68°55.4' W.
128 .....	40°02.6' N.	69°00.0' W.
129 .....	40°02.75' N.	69°00.75' W.
130 .....	40°04.2' N.	69°01.75' W.
131 .....	40°06.15' N.	69°01.95' W.
132 .....	40°07.25' N.	69°02.0' W.
133 .....	40°08.5' N.	69°02.25' W.
134 .....	40°09.2' N.	69°02.95' W.
135 .....	40°09.75' N.	69°03.3' W.
136 .....	40°09.55' N.	69°03.85' W.
137 .....	40°08.4' N.	69°03.4' W.
138 .....	40°07.2' N.	69°03.3' W.
139 .....	40°06.0' N.	69°03.1' W.
140 .....	40°05.4' N.	69°03.05' W.
141 .....	40°04.8' N.	69°03.05' W.
142 .....	40°03.55' N.	69°03.55' W.
143 .....	40°01.9' N.	69°03.95' W.
144 .....	40°01.0' N.	69°04.4' W.
146 .....	39°59.9' N.	69°06.25' W.
147 .....	40°00.6' N.	69°10.05' W.
148 .....	39°59.25' N.	69°11.15' W.
149 .....	39°57.45' N.	69°16.05' W.
150 .....	39°56.1' N.	69°20.1' W.
151 .....	39°54.6' N.	69°25.65' W.
152 .....	39°54.65' N.	69°26.9' W.
153 .....	39°54.8' N.	69°30.95' W.
154 .....	39°54.35' N.	69°33.4' W.
155 .....	39°55.0' N.	69°34.9' W.
156 .....	39°56.55' N.	69°36.0' W.

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Point	Latitude	Longitude
157 .....	39°57.95' N.	69°36.45' W.
158 .....	39°58.75' N.	69°36.3' W.
159 .....	39°58.8' N.	69°36.95' W.
160 .....	39°57.95' N.	69°38.1' W.
161 .....	39°54.5' N.	69°38.25' W.
162 .....	39°53.6' N.	69°46.5' W.
163 .....	39°54.7' N.	69°50.0' W.
164 .....	39°55.25' N.	69°51.4' W.
165 .....	39°55.2' N.	69°53.1' W.
166 .....	39°54.85' N.	69°53.9' W.
167 .....	39°55.7' N.	69°54.9' W.
168 .....	39°56.15' N.	69°55.35' W.
169 .....	39°56.05' N.	69°56.25' W.
170 .....	39°55.3' N.	69°57.1' W.
171 .....	39°54.8' N.	69°58.6' W.
172 .....	39°56.05' N.	70°00.65' W.
173 .....	39°55.3' N.	70°02.95' W.
174 .....	39°56.9' N.	70°11.3' W.
175 .....	39°58.9' N.	70°11.5' W.
176 .....	39°59.6' N.	70°11.1' W.
177 .....	40°01.35' N.	70°11.2' W.
178 .....	40°02.6' N.	70°12.0' W.
179 .....	40°00.4' N.	70°12.3' W.
180 .....	39°59.75' N.	70°13.05' W.
181 .....	39°59.3' N.	70°14.0' W.
to 119		

(2) *Duration.* (i) *Mobile gear.* From October 1 through June 15, no fishing vessel with mobile gear or person on a fishing vessel with mobile gear may fish, or be in Restricted Gear Area I unless transiting. Vessels may transit this area provided that mobile gear is on board the vessel while inside the area.

(ii) *Lobster pot gear.* From June 16 through September 30, no fishing vessel with lobster pot gear or person on a fishing vessel with lobster pot gear may fish, and no lobster pot gear may be deployed or remain, in Restricted Gear Area I.

(k) *Restricted Gear Area II.* (1) Restricted Gear Area II is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
<b>Inshore Boundary</b>		
to 1		
49. ....	40°02.75' N.	70°16.1' W.
50. ....	40°00.7' N.	70°18.6' W.
51. ....	39°59.8' N.	70°21.75' W.
52. ....	39°59.75' N.	70°25.5' W.
53. ....	40°03.85' N.	70°28.75' W.
54. ....	40°00.55' N.	70°32.1' W.
55. ....	39°59.15' N.	70°34.45' W.
56. ....	39°58.9' N.	70°38.65' W.
57. ....	40°00.1' N.	70°45.1' W.
58. ....	40°00.5' N.	70°57.6' W.
59. ....	40°02.0' N.	71°01.3' W.
60. ....	39°59.3' N.	71°18.4' W.
61. ....	40°00.7' N.	71°19.8' W.
62. ....	39°57.5' N.	71°20.6' W.
63. ....	39°53.1' N.	71°36.1' W.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
64. ....	39°52.6' N.	71°40.35' W.
65. ....	39°53.1' N.	71°42.7' W.
66. ....	39°46.95' N.	71°49.0' W.
67. ....	39°41.15' N.	71°57.1' W.
68. ....	39°35.45' N.	72°02.0' W.
69. ....	39°32.65' N.	72°06.1' W.
70. ....	39°29.75' N.	72°09.8' W.
to 48		

<b>Offshore Boundary</b>		
to 49		
1. ....	39°59.3' N.	70°14.0' W.
2. ....	39°58.85' N.	70°15.2' W.
3. ....	39°59.3' N.	70°18.4' W.
4. ....	39°58.1' N.	70°19.4' W.
5. ....	39°57.0' N.	70°19.85' W.
6. ....	39°57.55' N.	70°21.25' W.
7. ....	39°57.5' N.	70°22.8' W.
8. ....	39°57.1' N.	70°25.4' W.
9. ....	39°57.65' N.	70°27.05' W.
10. ....	39°58.58' N.	70°27.7' W.
11. ....	40°00.65' N.	70°28.8' W.
12. ....	40°02.2' N.	70°29.15' W.
13. ....	40°01.0' N.	70°30.2' W.
14. ....	39°58.58' N.	70°31.85' W.
15. ....	39°57.05' N.	70°34.35' W.
16. ....	39°56.42' N.	70°36.8' W.
21. ....	39°58.15' N.	70°48.0' W.
24. ....	39°58.3' N.	70°51.1' W.
25. ....	39°58.1' N.	70°52.25' W.
26. ....	39°58.05' N.	70°53.55' W.
27. ....	39°58.4' N.	70°59.6' W.
28. ....	39°59.8' N.	71°01.05' W.
29. ....	39°58.2' N.	71°05.85' W.
30. ....	39°57.45' N.	71°12.15' W.
31. ....	39°57.2' N.	71°15.0' W.
32. ....	39°56.3' N.	71°18.95' W.
33. ....	39°51.4' N.	71°36.1' W.
34. ....	39°51.75' N.	71°41.5' W.
35. ....	39°50.05' N.	71°42.5' W.
36. ....	39°50.0' N.	71°45.0' W.
37. ....	39°48.95' N.	71°46.05' W.
38. ....	39°46.6' N.	71°46.1' W.
39. ....	39°43.5' N.	71°49.4' W.
40. ....	39°41.3' N.	71°55.0' W.
41. ....	39°39.0' N.	71°55.6' W.
42. ....	39°36.72' N.	71°58.25' W.
43. ....	39°35.15' N.	71°58.55' W.
44. ....	39°34.5' N.	72°00.75' W.
45. ....	39°32.2' N.	72°02.25' W.
46. ....	39°32.15' N.	72°04.1' W.
47. ....	39°28.5' N.	72°06.5' W.
48. ....	39°29.0' N.	72°09.25' W.
to 70.		

(2) *Duration.* (i) *Mobile Gear.* From November 27 through June 15, no fishing vessel with mobile gear or person on a fishing vessel with mobile gear may fish, or be in Restricted Gear Area II unless transiting. Vessels may transit this area provided that all mobile gear is on board the vessel while inside the area.

(ii) *Lobster pot gear.* From June 16 through November 26, no fishing vessel with lobster pot gear or person on a fishing vessel with lobster pot gear may fish, and no lobster pot gear may

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be deployed or remain, in Restricted Gear Area II.

(l) *Restricted Gear Area III.* (1) Restricted Gear Area III is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
<b>Inshore Boundary</b>		
to 49		
182 .....	40°05.6' N.	70°17.7' W.
183 .....	40°06.5' N.	70°40.05' W.
184 .....	40°11.05' N.	70°45.8' W.
185 .....	40°12.75' N.	70°55.05' W.
186 .....	40°10.7' N.	71°10.25' W.
187 .....	39°57.9' N.	71°28.7' W.
188 .....	39°55.6' N.	71°41.2' W.
189 .....	39°55.85' N.	71°45.0' W.
190 .....	39°53.75' N.	71°52.25' W.
191 .....	39°47.2' N.	72°01.6' W.
192 .....	39°33.65' N.	72°15.0' W.
to 70		
<b>Offshore Boundary</b>		
to 182		
49 .....	40°02.75' N.	70°16.1' W.
50 .....	40°00.7' N.	70°18.6' W.
51 .....	39°59.8' N.	70°21.75' W.
52 .....	39°59.75' N.	70°25.5' W.
53 .....	40°03.85' N.	70°28.75' W.
54 .....	40°00.55' N.	70°32.1' W.
55 .....	39°59.15' N.	70°34.45' W.
56 .....	39°58.9' N.	70°38.65' W.
57 .....	40°00.1' N.	70°45.1' W.
58 .....	40°00.5' N.	70°57.6' W.
59 .....	40°02.0' N.	71°01.3' W.
60 .....	39°59.3' N.	71°18.4' W.
61 .....	40°00.7' N.	71°19.8' W.
62 .....	39°57.5' N.	71°20.6' W.
63 .....	39°53.1' N.	71°36.1' W.
64 .....	39°52.6' N.	71°40.35' W.
65 .....	39°53.1' N.	71°42.7' W.
66 .....	39°46.95' N.	71°49.0' W.
67 .....	39°41.15' N.	71°57.1' W.
68 .....	39°35.45' N.	72°02.0' W.
69 .....	39°32.65' N.	72°06.1' W.
70 .....	39°29.75' N.	72°09.8' W.
to 192		

(2) *Duration.* (i) *Mobile gear.* From June 16 through November 26, no fishing vessel with mobile gear or person on a fishing vessel with mobile gear may fish, or be in Restricted Gear Area III unless transiting. Vessels may transit this area provided that all mobile gear is on board the vessel while inside the area.

(ii) *Lobster pot gear.* From January 1 through April 30, no fishing vessel with lobster pot gear or person on a fishing vessel with lobster pot gear may fish, and no lobster pot gear may be deployed or remain, in Restricted Gear Area III.

(m) *Restricted Gear Area IV.* (1) Restricted Gear Area IV is defined by

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straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
<b>Inshore Boundary</b>		
193 .....	40°13.60' N.	68°40.60' W.
194 .....	40°11.60' N.	68°53.00' W.
195 .....	40°14.00' N.	69°04.70' W.
196 .....	40°14.30' N.	69°05.80' W.
197 .....	40°05.50' N.	69°09.00' W.
198 .....	39°57.30' N.	69°25.10' W.
199 .....	40°00.40' N.	69°35.20' W.
200 .....	40°01.70' N.	69°35.40' W.
201 .....	40°01.70' N.	69°37.40' W.
202 .....	40°00.50' N.	69°38.80' W.
203 .....	40°01.30' N.	69°45.00' W.
204 .....	40°02.10' N.	69°45.00' W.
205 .....	40°07.60' N.	70°04.50' W.
206 .....	40°07.80' N.	70°09.20' W.
to 119		
<b>Offshore Boundary</b>		
69 .....	40°07.90' N.	68°36.00' W.
70 .....	40°07.20' N.	68°38.40' W.
71 .....	40°06.90' N.	68°46.50' W.
72 .....	40°08.70' N.	68°49.60' W.
73 .....	40°08.10' N.	68°51.00' W.
74 .....	40°05.70' N.	68°52.40' W.
75 .....	40°03.60' N.	68°57.20' W.
76 .....	40°03.65' N.	69°00.00' W.
77 .....	40°04.35' N.	69°00.50' W.
78 .....	40°05.20' N.	69°00.50' W.
79 .....	40°05.30' N.	69°01.10' W.
80 .....	40°08.90' N.	69°01.75' W.
81 .....	40°11.00' N.	69°03.80' W.
82 .....	40°11.60' N.	69°05.40' W.
83 .....	40°10.25' N.	69°04.40' W.
84 .....	40°09.75' N.	69°04.15' W.
85 .....	40°08.45' N.	69°03.60' W.
86 .....	40°05.65' N.	69°03.55' W.
87 .....	40°04.10' N.	69°03.90' W.
88 .....	40°02.65' N.	69°05.60' W.
89 .....	40°02.00' N.	69°08.35' W.
90 .....	40°02.65' N.	69°11.15' W.
91 .....	40°00.05' N.	69°14.60' W.
92 .....	39°57.80' N.	69°20.35' W.
93 .....	39°56.75' N.	69°24.40' W.
94 .....	39°56.50' N.	69°26.35' W.
95 .....	39°56.80' N.	69°34.10' W.
96 .....	39°57.85' N.	69°35.05' W.
97 .....	40°00.65' N.	69°36.50' W.
98 .....	40°00.90' N.	69°37.30' W.
99 .....	39°59.15' N.	69°37.30' W.
100 .....	39°58.80' N.	69°38.45' W.
102 .....	39°56.20' N.	69°40.20' W.
103 .....	39°55.75' N.	69°41.40' W.
104 .....	39°56.70' N.	69°53.60' W.
105 .....	39°57.55' N.	69°54.05' W.
106 .....	39°57.40' N.	69°55.90' W.
107 .....	39°56.90' N.	69°57.45' W.
108 .....	39°58.25' N.	70°03.00' W.
110 .....	39°59.20' N.	70°04.90' W.
111 .....	40°00.70' N.	70°08.70' W.
112 .....	40°03.75' N.	70°10.15' W.
115 .....	40°05.20' N.	70°10.90' W.
116 .....	40°02.45' N.	70°14.1' W.
119 .....	40°02.75' N.	70°16.1' W.
to 206		

(2) *Duration.* (i) *Mobile gear.* From June 16 through September 30, no fishing vessel with mobile gear or person



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on a fishing vessel with mobile gear may fish, or be in Restricted Gear Area IV unless transiting. Vessels may transit this area provided that all mobile gear is on board the vessel while inside the area.

(n) *Georges Bank Seasonal Closure Area.* (1) From May 1 through May 31, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish in, or be in, and no fishing gear capable of catching multispecies, unless otherwise allowed in this part, may be in the area known as the Georges Bank Seasonal Closure Area as defined as the straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated, except as specified in paragraphs (d) and (n)(2) of this section:

GEORGES BANK SEASONAL CLOSURE AREAS  
[May 1 - May 31]

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GB1 .....	42°00'	(1)
GB2 .....	42°00'	67°20'
GB3 .....	41°30'	67°20'
GB4 .....	41°30'	69°23'
GB5 .....	(2)	69°00'
GB6 .....	41°00'	69°00'
GB7 .....	41°00'	70°00'
GB1 .....	42°00'	(1)

<sup>1</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on Atlantic Ocean.

<sup>2</sup> Western boundary of Closed Area 1.

(2) Paragraph (n)(1) of this section does not apply to persons on fishing vessels or to fishing vessels:

(i) That meet the criteria in paragraph (g)(2)(i) or (ii) of this section;

(ii) That are fishing as charter/party or recreational vessels; or

(iii) That are fishing with or using scallop dredge gear when fishing under a scallop DAS or when lawfully fishing in the Scallop Dredge Fishery Exemption Area as described in §648.80(a)(10), provided the vessel uses an 8-inch (20.3-cm) twine top and complies with the multispecies possession restrictions for scallop vessels specified at §648.80(h).

(o) *Conditional Cashes Ledge & Gulf of Maine Rolling Closure Areas.* (1) If the Regional Administrator determines that at least 50 percent of the average between the  $F_{0.1}$  target TAC and the  $F_{max}$  target (an amount equal to 1.67 million lb (759 mt) for the 2000 - 2001 fishing year) has been landed as of, or before, July 31 of each year, NMFS, through a timely notification action in

the FEDERAL REGISTER, shall implement the following closures:

(i) *Cashes Ledge Closure Area.* From November 1 through November 30, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish in, or be in, and no fishing gear capable of catching NE multispecies, unless otherwise allowed in this part, may be in, or on board a vessel in, the area known as the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, as described in §648.81(h)(1), except as provided in §648.81(h)(2); and

(ii) *Rolling Closure Area VI.* From January 1 through January 31, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish in, or be in, and no fishing gear capable of catching NE multispecies, unless otherwise allowed in this part, may be in, or on board a vessel in, the area known as Rolling Closure Area VI, as described in §648.81(g)(1)(vi), except as provided in §648.81(g)(2).

[61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 55777, Oct. 29, 1996; 62 FR 9379, Mar. 3, 1997; 62 FR 10748, Mar. 10, 1997; 62 FR 15388, Apr. 1, 1997; 63 FR 7730, Feb. 17, 1998; 63 FR 11595, Mar. 10, 1998; 63 FR 15331, Mar. 31, 1998; 63 FR 25416, May 8, 1998; 64 FR 24075, May 5, 1999; 64 FR 31151, June 10, 1999; 64 FR 42048, Aug. 3, 1999; 65 FR 379, Jan. 5, 2000; 65 FR 21665, Apr. 24, 2000; 65 FR 37915, June 19, 2000; 65 FR 49946, Aug. 16, 2000]

### § 648.82 Effort-control program for multispecies limited access vessels.

(a) Except as provided in §§648.17 and 648.82(a)(2), a vessel issued a limited access multispecies permit may not fish for, possess, or land regulated species, except during a DAS as allocated under and in accordance with the applicable DAS program described in this section, unless otherwise provided elsewhere in this part.

(1) *End-of-year carry-over.* With the exception of vessels that held a Confirmation of Permit History as described in §648.4(a)(1)(i)(J) for the entire fishing year preceding the carry-over year, limited access vessels that have unused DAS on the last day of April of any year, may carry over a maximum of 10 DAS into the next year. DAS sanctioned vessels will be credited with unused DAS based on their DAS allocation minus total DAS sanctioned.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, any vessel issued a

are from legal-sized fish and are not offered or intended for sale, trade, or barter. For purposes of determining compliance with the possession limits specified in § 648.86, the weight of fillets and parts of fish, other than whole-gutted or gilled fish, will be multiplied by 3.

(2) Recreational, party, and charter vessels may possess fillets less than the minimum size specified, if the fillets are taken from legal-sized fish and are not offered or intended for sale, trade or barter.

(3) Vessels fishing exclusively with pot gear may possess multispecies frames used, or to be used, as bait that measure less than the minimum fish size, if there is a receipt for purchase of those frames on board the vessel.

(c) *Adjustments.* (1) At any time when information is available, the NEFMC will review the best available mesh selectivity information to determine the appropriate minimum size for the species listed in paragraph (a) of this section, except winter flounder, according to the length at which 25 percent of the regulated species would be retained by the applicable minimum mesh size.

(2) Upon determination of the appropriate minimum sizes, the NEFMC shall propose the minimum fish sizes to be implemented following the procedures specified in § 648.90.

(3) Additional adjustments or changes to the minimum fish sizes specified in paragraph (a) of this section, and exemptions as specified in paragraph (b) of this section, may be made at any time after implementation of the final rule as specified under § 648.90.

[61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 49277, Sept. 19, 1996; 63 FR 11595, Mar. 10, 1998; 63 FR 42592, Aug. 10, 1998; 64 FR 24076, May 5, 1999; 64 FR 55827, Oct. 15, 1999]

#### **§ 648.84 Gear-marking requirements and gear restrictions.**

(a) Bottom-tending fixed gear, including, but not limited to, gillnets and longlines designed for, capable of, or fishing for NE multispecies or monkfish, must have the name of the owner or vessel or the official number of that vessel permanently affixed to any buoys, gillnets, longlines, or other appropriate gear so that the name of the owner or vessel or the official number

of the vessel is visible on the surface of the water.

(b) Bottom-tending fixed gear, including, but not limited to gillnets or longline gear, must be marked so that the westernmost end (measuring the half compass circle from magnetic south through west to, and including, north) of the gear displays a standard 12-inch (30.5-cm) tetrahedral corner radar reflector and a pennant positioned on a staff at least 6 ft (1.8 m) above the buoy. The easternmost end (meaning the half compass circle from magnetic north through east to, and including, south) of the gear need display only the standard 12-inch (30.5-cm) tetrahedral radar reflector positioned in the same way.

(c) Continuous gillnets must not exceed 6,600 ft (2,011.7 m) between the end buoys.

(d) In the GOM/GB regulated mesh area specified in § 648.80(a), gillnet gear set in an irregular pattern or in any way that deviates more than 30° from the original course of the set must be marked at the extremity of the deviation with an additional marker, which must display two or more visible streamers and may either be attached to or independent of the gear.

[61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 54747, Oct. 7, 1999]

#### **§ 648.85 Flexible Area Action System.**

(a) The Chair of the Multispecies Oversight Committee, upon learning of the presence of discard problems associated with large concentrations of juvenile, sublegal, or spawning multispecies, shall determine if the situation warrants further investigation and possible action. In making this determination, the Committee Chair shall consider the amount of discard of regulated species, the species targeted, the number and types of vessels operating in the area, the location and size of the area, and the resource condition of the impacted species. If he/she determines it is necessary, the Committee Chair will request the Regional Administrator to initiate a fact finding investigation to verify the situation and publish notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER requesting public comments in accordance with the procedures

catch, or that continuing the exemption may jeopardize meeting fishing mortality objectives. Notification of additions, deletions or modifications will be made through issuance of a rule in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(2) The MAFMC may recommend to the Regional Administrator, through the framework procedure specified in § 648.108(a), additions or deletions to exemptions for fisheries other than scup.

(e) *Exempted experimental fishing.* The Regional Administrator may issue an exempted experimental fishing permit (EFP) under the provisions of § 600.745(b), consistent with paragraph (d)(2) of this section, to allow any vessel participating in a scup discard mitigation research project to engage in any of the following activities: Fish in the applicable gear restriction area, use fishing gear that does not conform to the regulations, possess non-exempt species specified in paragraphs (a)(2) and (b)(2) of this section, or engage in any other activity necessary to project operations for which an exemption from regulatory provision is required. Vessels issued an EFP must comply with all conditions and restrictions specified in the EFP.

(1) A vessel participating in an exempted experimental fishery in the Scup Gear Restriction Area(s) must carry an EFP authorizing the activity and any required Federal fishery permit on board.

(2) The Regional Administrator may not issue an EFP unless s/he determines that issuance is consistent with the objectives of the FMP, the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law and will not:

- (i) Have a detrimental effect on the scup resource and fishery;
- (ii) Cause the quotas for any species of fish for any quota period to be exceeded;
- (iii) Create significant enforcement problems; or
- (iv) Have a detrimental effect on the scup discard mitigation research project.

[65 FR 33497, May 24, 2000]

#### § 648.123 Gear restrictions.

(a) *Trawl vessel gear restrictions—(1) Minimum mesh size.* The owners or operators of otter trawlers who are issued a

scup moratorium permit and who possess 200 lb or more (90.7 kg or more) of scup from November 1 through April 30 or 100 lb or more (45.4 kg or more) of scup from May 1 through October 31, must fish with nets that have a minimum mesh size of 4.5 inches (11.43 cm) diamond mesh, applied throughout the codend for at least 75 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net, or for codends with fewer than 75 meshes, the minimum-mesh-size codend must be a minimum of one-third of the net, measured from the terminus of the codend to the head rope, excluding any turtle excluder device extension. Scup on board these vessels shall be stored separately and kept readily available for inspection.

(2) *Mesh-size measurement.* Mesh sizes will be measured according to the procedure specified in § 648.104(a)(2).

(3) *Net modification.* The owner or operator of a fishing vessel subject to the minimum mesh requirements in § 648.122 and paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall not use any device, gear, or material, including, but not limited to, nets, net strengtheners, ropes, lines, or chafing gear, on the top of the regulated portion of a trawl net. However, one splitting strap and one bull rope (if present), consisting of line or rope no more than 3 inches (7.2 cm) in diameter, may be used if such splitting strap and/or bull rope does not constrict in any manner the top of the regulated portion of the net, and one rope no greater than 0.75 inches (1.9 cm) in diameter extending the length of the net from the belly to the terminus of the codend along the top, bottom, and each side of the net. "Top of the regulated portion of the net" means the 50 percent of the entire regulated portion of the net that (in a hypothetical situation) will not be in contact with the ocean bottom during a tow if the regulated portion of the net were laid flat on the ocean floor. For the purpose of this paragraph (a)(3), head ropes are not considered part of the top of the regulated portion of a trawl net.

(4) *Mesh obstruction or constriction.* (i) The owner or operator of a fishing vessel subject to the minimum mesh restrictions in § 648.122 and in paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall not use any

mesh construction, mesh configuration, or other means on, in, or attached to the top of the regulated portion of the net, as defined in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, if it obstructs or constricts the meshes of the net in any manner.

(ii) The owner or operator of a fishing vessel subject to the minimum mesh requirements in §648.122 and in paragraph (a)(1) of this section may not use a net capable of catching scup if the bars entering or exiting the knots twist around each other.

(5) *Stowage of nets.* The owner or operator of an otter trawl vessel retaining 4,000 lb or more (1,814 kg or more) of scup and subject to the minimum mesh requirement in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, and the owner or operator of a midwater trawl or other trawl vessel subject to the minimum mesh requirement in §648.122, may not have available for immediate use any net, or any piece of net, not meeting the minimum mesh size requirement, or mesh that is rigged in a manner that is inconsistent with the minimum mesh size. A net that conforms to one of the methods specified in §648.23(b) and that can be shown not to have been in recent use is considered to be not “available for immediate use.”

(6) *Roller gear.* The owner or operator of an otter trawl vessel issued a moratorium permit pursuant to §648.4(a)(6) shall not use roller rig trawl gear equipped with rollers greater than 18 inches (45.7 cm) in diameter.

(7) *Procedures for changes.* The minimum net mesh and the threshold catch level at which it is required set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, and the maximum roller diameter set forth in paragraph (a)(6) of this section, may be changed following the procedures in §648.120.

(b) *Pot and trap gear restrictions.* Owners or operators of vessels subject to this part must fish with scup pots or traps that comply with the following:

(1) *Degradable hinges.* A scup pot or trap must have degradable hinges and fasteners made of one of the following degradable materials:

(i) Untreated hemp, jute, or cotton string of  $\frac{3}{16}$  inches (4.8 mm) diameter or smaller;

(ii) Magnesium alloy, timed float releases (pop-up devices) or similar magnesium alloy fasteners; or

(iii) Ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire of 0.094 inches (2.4 mm) diameter or smaller.

(2) *Escape vents.* (i) All scup pots or traps that have a circular escape vent with a minimum of 3.1 inches (7.9 cm) in diameter, or a square escape vent with a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.7 cm) for each side, or an equivalent rectangular escape vent.

(ii) The minimum escape vent size set forth in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section may be revised following the procedures in §648.120.

(3) *Pot and trap identification.* Pots or traps used in fishing for scup must be marked with a code of identification that may be the number assigned by the Regional Administrator and/or the identification marking as required by the vessel's home port state.

[61 FR 43426, Aug. 23, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 56126, Oct. 31, 1996; 62 FR 12107, Mar. 14, 1997; 63 FR 72215, Dec. 31, 1998; 65 FR 33498, May 24, 2000]

#### § 648.124 Minimum fish sizes.

(a) The minimum size for scup is 9 inches (22.9 cm) TL for all vessels issued a moratorium permit under §648.4(a)(6). If such a vessel is also issued a charter and party boat permit and is carrying passengers for hire, or carrying more than three crew members if a charter boat, or more than five crew members if a party boat, then the minimum size specified in paragraph (b) of this section applies.

(b) The minimum size for scup is 7 inches (17.8 cm) TL for all vessels that do not have a moratorium permit, or for party and charter vessels that are issued a moratorium permit but are fishing with passengers for hire, or carrying more than three crew members if a charter boat, or more than five crew members if a party boat.

(c) The minimum size applies to whole fish or any part of a fish found in possession, e.g., fillets. These minimum sizes may be adjusted pursuant to the procedures in §648.120.

#### § 648.125 Possession limit.

(a) Pursuant to the procedures in §648.120, the Regional Administrator

#### § 648.141

landings of black sea bass during a closure pursuant to the Fishery Management Plan for the Black Sea Bass Fishery adopted by the Commission. Any overages of the commercial quarterly quota landed will be deducted from that quarter's quota for the following year.

#### § 648.141 Closure.

*EEZ closure.* The Regional Administrator shall close the EEZ to fishing for black sea bass by commercial vessels issued a moratorium permit for the remainder of the calendar year by publishing notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER if he or she determines that the action or inaction of one or more states will cause the applicable target exploitation rate specified in § 648.140(a) to be exceeded. The Regional Administrator may reopen the EEZ if earlier action or inaction by a state has been remedied by that state without causing the applicable specified target exploitation rate to be exceeded.

#### § 648.142 Time restrictions.

Vessels that are not eligible for a moratorium permit under § 648.4(a)(6) and fishermen subject to the possession limit may not fish for black sea bass from August 1 through August 15. This time period may be adjusted pursuant to the procedures in § 648.140.

[63 FR 27868, May 21, 1998]

#### § 648.143 Minimum sizes.

(a) The minimum size for black sea bass is 10 inches (25.4 cm) total length for all vessels issued a moratorium permit under § 648.4(a)(7) that fish for or retain black sea bass in or from U.S. waters of the western Atlantic Ocean from 35°15.3' N. Lat., the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, North Carolina, northward to the U.S.-Canada border. The minimum size may be adjusted for commercial vessels pursuant to the procedures in § 648.140.

(b) The minimum size for black sea bass is 10 inches (25.4 cm) TL for all vessels that do not qualify for a moratorium permit, and party boats holding a moratorium permit if fishing with passengers for hire or carrying more than five crew members, or charter boats, holding a moratorium permit if

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fishing with more than three crew members. The minimum size may be adjusted for recreational vessels pursuant to the procedures in § 648.140.

(c) The minimum size in this section applies to the whole fish or any part of a fish found in possession (e.g., fillets), except that party or charter vessels possessing valid state permits authorizing filleting at sea may possess fillets smaller than the size specified if skin remains on the fillet and all other state requirements are met.

[61 FR 58467, Nov. 15, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 27868, May 21, 1998]

#### § 648.144 Gear restrictions.

(a) *Trawl gear restrictions*—(1) *General.*

(i) Otter trawlers whose owners are issued a black sea bass moratorium permit and that land or possess 1,000 lb or more (453.6 kg or more) of black sea bass per trip, must fish with nets that have a minimum mesh size of 4.0 inches (10.2 cm) diamond or 3.5 inches (8.9 cm) square (inside measure) mesh applied throughout the codend for at least 75 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net, or, for codends with less than 75 meshes, the minimum-mesh-size codend must be a minimum of one-third of the net, measured from the terminus of the codend to the center of the head rope, excluding any turtle excluder device extension.

(ii) Mesh sizes shall be measured pursuant to the procedure specified in § 648.104(a)(2).

(2) *Net modifications.* No vessel subject to this part shall use any device, gear, or material, including, but not limited to nets, net strengtheners, ropes, lines, or chafing gear, on the top of the regulated portion of a trawl net; except that, one splitting strap and one bull rope (if present) consisting of line or rope no more than 3 inches (7.6 cm) in diameter may be used if such splitting strap and/or bull rope does not constrict, in any manner, the top of the regulated portion of the net, and one rope no greater than 0.75 inches (1.9 cm) in diameter extending the length of the net from the belly to the terminus of the codend along the top, bottom, and each side of the net. "Top of the regulated portion of the net"

means the 50 percent of the entire regulated portion of the net that (in a hypothetical situation) will not be in contact with the ocean bottom during a tow if the regulated portion of the net were laid flat on the ocean floor. For the purpose of this paragraph, head ropes shall not be considered part of the top of the regulated portion of a trawl net.

(3) *Mesh obstruction or constriction.* (i) A fishing vessel may not use any mesh configuration, mesh construction, or other means on or in the top of the net, as defined in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, that obstructs the meshes of the net in any manner, or otherwise causes the size of the meshes of the net while in use to diminish to a size smaller than the minimum established pursuant to paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section.

(ii) No person on any vessel may possess or fish with a net capable of catching black sea bass in which the bars entering or exiting the knots twist around each other.

(4) *Stowage of nets.* Otter trawl vessels subject to the minimum mesh-size requirement of paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section may not have "available for immediate use" any net or any piece of net that does not meet the minimum mesh size requirement, or any net, or any piece of net, with mesh that is rigged in a manner that is inconsistent with the minimum mesh size requirement. A net that is stowed in conformance with one of the methods specified in § 648.23(b) and that can be shown not to have been in recent use, is considered to be not "available for immediate use."

(5) *Roller gear.* Rollers used in roller rig or rock hopper trawl gear shall be no larger than 18 inches (45.7 cm) in diameter.

(b) *Pot and trap gear restrictions—(1) Gear marking.* The owner of a vessel issued a black sea bass moratorium permit must mark all black sea bass pots or traps with the vessel's USCG documentation number or state registration number.

(2) *Escape vents.* All black sea bass traps or pots must have an escape vent placed in a lower corner of the parlor portion of the pot or trap which complies with one of the following min-

imum sizes: 1.125 inches (2.86 cm) by 5.75 inches (14.61 cm); or a circular vent 2 inches (5.08 cm) in diameter; or a square vent with sides of 1.5 inches (3.81 cm), inside measure; however, black sea bass traps or pots constructed of wooden laths may instead have an escape vent constructed by leaving a space of at least 1.125 inches (2.86 cm) between one set of laths in the parlor portion of the trap. The dimensions for escape vents and lath spacing may be adjusted pursuant to the procedures in § 648.140.

(3) *Ghost panel.* Black sea bass traps or pots must contain a ghost panel affixed to the trap or pot with degradable fasteners and hinges. The opening to be covered by the ghost panel must measure at least 3.0 inches (7.62 cm) by 6.0 inches (15.24 cm). The ghost panel must be affixed to the pot or trap with hinges and fasteners made of one of the following degradable materials:

(i) Untreated hemp, jute, or cotton string of 3/16 inches (4.8 mm) diameter or smaller; or

(ii) Magnesium alloy, timed float releases (pop-up devices) or similar magnesium alloy fasteners; or

(iii) Ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire of 0.094 inches (2.4 mm) diameter or smaller.

[61 FR 58467, Nov. 15, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 25138, May 8, 1997; 62 FR 66310, Dec. 18, 1997]

#### § 648.145 Possession limit.

A possession limit will be established pursuant to the procedures in § 648.140 to assure that the recreational harvest limit is not exceeded.

(a) If whole black sea bass are processed into fillets, an authorized officer will convert the number of fillets to whole black sea bass at the place of landing by dividing fillet number by two. If black sea bass are filleted into a single (butterfly) fillet, such fillet shall be deemed to be from one whole black sea bass.

(b) Black sea bass harvested by vessels subject to the possession limit with more than one person aboard may be pooled in one or more containers. Compliance with the daily possession limit will be determined by dividing the number of black sea bass on board by the number of persons aboard, other

(3) No person may possess, ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any whole live American lobster that bears evidence of the removal of extruded eggs from its abdominal appendages as specified in paragraph (e) of this section.

(f) *Spearing.* (1) No person may spear any American lobster in the EEZ.

(2) No person on a vessel issued a Federal lobster license may spear a lobster.

(3) No person may harvest or possess any American lobster which has been speared in the EEZ.

(4) No person may possess, ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any American lobster which has been speared.

**§ 697.21 Gear identification and marking, escape vent, maximum trap size, and ghost panel requirements.**

(a) *Gear identification and marking.* All lobster gear deployed or possessed in the EEZ, or, deployed or possessed by a person on or from a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit, and not permanently attached to the vessel must be legibly and indelibly marked with the following:

(1) *Identification.* Effective through April 30, 2000, all lobster gear must be marked with the following code of identification:

(i) A number assigned by the Regional Administrator; or

(ii) Whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.

(2) *Identification and trap tagging.* Beginning May 1, 2000, lobster gear must be marked with a trap tag (as specified in § 697.19) with the following code of identification:

(i) A number assigned by the Regional Administrator; or

(ii) Whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.

(b) *Deployment and gear configuration.* In the areas of the EEZ described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, lobster trap trawls are to be displayed and configured as follows:

(1) Lobster trap trawls of three or fewer traps deployed in the EEZ must

be attached to and marked with a single buoy.

(2) Lobster trap trawls consisting of more than three traps must have a radar reflector and a single flag or pennant on the westernmost end (marking the half compass circle from magnetic south through west, to and including north), while the easternmost end (meaning the half compass circle from magnetic north through east, to and including south) of an American lobster trap trawl must be configured with a radar reflector only. Standard tetrahedral corner radar reflectors of at least 8 inches (20.32 cm) (both in height and width, and made from metal) must be employed. (A copy of a diagram showing a standard tetrahedral corner radar reflector is available upon request to the Office of the Regional Administrator.)

(3) No American lobster trap trawl shall exceed 1.5 nautical miles (2.78 km) in length, as measured from radar reflector to radar reflector.

(4) Gear deployment and configuration requirements specified in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(3) of this section apply in the following areas:

(i) *Gulf of Maine gear area.* Gulf of Maine gear area is defined as all waters of the EEZ north of 42°20' N. lat. seaward of a line drawn 12 nautical miles (22.2 km) from the baseline of the territorial sea;

(ii) *Georges Bank gear area.* Georges Bank gear area is defined as all waters of the EEZ south of 42°20' N. lat. and east of 70°00' W. long. or the outer boundary of the territorial sea, whichever lies farther east;

(iii) *Southern New England gear area.* Southern New England gear area is defined as all waters of the EEZ west of 70°00' W. long., east of 71°30' W. long. at a depth greater than 25 fathoms (45.72 m); and

(iv) *Mid-Atlantic gear area.* Mid-Atlantic gear area is defined as all waters of the EEZ, west of 71°30' W. long. and north of 36°33' N. lat. at a depth greater than 40 fathoms (73.15 m).

(c) *Escape vents.* (1) All American lobster traps deployed or possessed in the EEZ, or, deployed or possessed by a person on or from a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit as specified under § 697.4, must

include either of the following escape vents in the parlor section of the trap, located in such a manner that it will not be blocked or obstructed by any portion of the trap, associated gear, or the sea floor in normal use:

(i) A rectangular portal with an unobstructed opening not less than  $1\frac{5}{16}$  inches (4.92 cm) by  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches (14.61 cm);

(ii) Two circular portals with unobstructed openings not less than  $2\frac{7}{16}$  inches (6.19 cm) in diameter.

(2) The Regional Administrator may, at the request of, or after consultation with, the Commission, approve and specify, through a technical amendment of this final rule, any other type of acceptable escape vent that the Regional Administrator finds to be consistent with paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section.

(d) *Ghost panel.* (1) Lobster traps not constructed entirely of wood (excluding heading or parlor twine and the escape vent) must contain a ghost panel located in the outer parlor(s) of the trap and not in the bottom of the trap constructed of, or fastened to the trap with, one of the following untreated materials: Wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch (0.48 cm) in diameter, or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch (0.24 cm) in diameter and covering a rectangular opening not less than  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches (9.53 cm) by  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches (9.53 cm). The door of the trap may serve as the ghost panel, if fastened with one of these materials.

(2) The Regional Administrator may, at the request of, or after consultation with, the Commission, approve and specify, through a technical amendment of this rule, any other design, mechanism, material, or other parameter that serves to create an escape portal not less than  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches (9.53 cm) by  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches (9.53 cm).

(e) *Maximum trap size.* (1) *EEZ Nearshore Management Area maximum trap size.* (i) Beginning January 5, 2000, American lobster traps deployed or possessed in the EEZ, or, deployed or possessed by a person on or from a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit as specified under § 697.4, if deployed or possessed by a person or vessel permitted to fish

in any EEZ Nearshore Management Area (Area 1, Outer Cape, Area 2, Area 4, Area 5, or Area 6) and the Area 2/3 Overlap, or only in the Area 2/3 Overlap shall not exceed 25,245 cubic inches (413,690 cubic centimeters) in volume, as measured on the outside portion of the trap, exclusive of the runners;

(ii) Beginning May 1, 2003, American lobster traps deployed or possessed in the EEZ, or, deployed or possessed by a person on or from a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit as specified under § 697.4, if deployed or possessed by a person or vessel permitted to fish in any EEZ Nearshore Management Area (Area 1, Outer Cape, Area 2, Area 4, Area 5, or Area 6) and the Area 2/3 Overlap, or only in the Area 2/3 Overlap, shall not exceed 22,950 cubic inches (376,081 cubic centimeters) in volume as measured on the outside portion of the trap, exclusive of the runners.

(2) *EEZ Offshore Management Area maximum trap size.* (i) Beginning January 5, 2000, American lobster traps deployed or possessed in the EEZ, or, deployed or possessed by a person on or from a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit as specified under § 697.4, if deployed or possessed by a person or vessel permitted to fish only in EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 or only in EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 and the Area 2/3 Overlap, shall not exceed 33,110 cubic inches (542,573 cubic centimeters) in volume as measured on the outside portion of the trap, exclusive of the runners;

(ii) Beginning May 1, 2003, American lobster traps deployed or possessed in the EEZ, or, deployed or possessed by a person on or from a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit as specified under § 697.4, if deployed or possessed by a person or vessel permitted to fish only in EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 or only in EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 and the Area 2/3 Overlap, shall not exceed 30,100 cubic inches (493,249 cubic centimeters) in volume as measured on the outside portion of the trap, exclusive of the runners.



## § 697.22

(f) *Enforcement action.* Unidentified, unmarked, unvented, improperly vented American lobster traps, or, beginning May 1, 2000, any untagged American lobster traps, or any lobster traps subject to the requirements and specifications of § 697.21, which fail to meet such requirements and specifications may be seized and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of part 219 of this title.

### § 697.22 Exempted fishing.

The Regional Administrator may exempt any person or vessel from the requirements of this part for the conduct of exempted fishing beneficial to the management of the American lobster, weakfish, Atlantic striped bass, or Atlantic sturgeon, resource or fishery pursuant to the provisions of § 600.745 of this chapter.

(a) The Regional Administrator may not grant such exemption unless it is determined that the purpose, design, and administration of the exemption is consistent with the objectives of any applicable stock rebuilding program, the provisions of the ACFCMA, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law, and that granting the exemption will not:

(1) Have a detrimental effect on the American lobster, Atlantic striped bass, weakfish, or Atlantic sturgeon resource or fishery; or

(2) Create significant enforcement problems.

(b) Each vessel participating in any exempted fishing activity is subject to all provisions of this part, except those explicitly relating to the purpose and nature of the exemption. The exemption will be specified in a letter issued by the Regional Administrator to each vessel participating in the exempted activity. This letter must be carried aboard the vessel seeking the benefit of such exemption. Exempted fishing activity shall be authorized pursuant to and consistent with § 600.745 of this chapter.

### § 697.23 Restricted gear areas.

(a) Resolution of lobster gear conflicts with fisheries managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act shall be done under provisions of § 648.55 of this chapter.

## 50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–00 Edition)

(b) *Restricted Gear Area I*—(1) *Duration*—(i) *Mobile Gear.* From October 1 through June 15 of each fishing year, no fishing vessel with mobile gear or person on a fishing vessel with mobile gear may fish, or be, in Restricted Gear Area I, as defined in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, unless transiting only, provided that all mobile gear is on board the vessel while inside the area.

(ii) *Lobster trap gear.* From June 16 through September 30 of each fishing year, no fishing vessel with lobster trap gear or person on a fishing vessel with lobster trap gear may fish, and no lobster trap gear may be deployed or remain, in Restricted Gear Area I as defined in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) *Definition of Restricted Gear Area I.* Restricted Gear Area I is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

### INSHORE BOUNDARY

Point to	Latitude	Longitude
120 .....	40°06.4' N.	68°35.8' W.
69 .....	40°07.9' N.	68°36.0' W.
70 .....	40°07.2' N.	68°38.4' W.
71 .....	40°06.9' N.	68°46.5' W.
72 .....	40°08.7' N.	68°49.6' W.
73 .....	40°08.1' N.	68°51.0' W.
74 .....	40°05.7' N.	68°52.4' W.
75 .....	40°03.6' N.	68°57.2' W.
76 .....	40°03.65' N.	69°00.0' W.
77 .....	40°04.35' N.	69°00.5' W.
78 .....	40°05.2' N.	69°00.5' W.
79 .....	40°05.3' N.	69°01.1' W.
80 .....	40°08.9' N.	69°01.75' W.
81 .....	40°11.0' N.	69°03.8' W.
82 .....	40°11.6' N.	69°05.4' W.
83 .....	40°10.25' N.	69°04.4' W.
84 .....	40°09.75' N.	69°04.15' W.
85 .....	40°08.45' N.	69°03.6' W.
86 .....	40°05.65' N.	69°03.55' W.
87 .....	40°04.1' N.	69°03.9' W.
88 .....	40°02.65' N.	69°05.6' W.
89 .....	40°02.00' N.	69°08.35' W.
90 .....	40°02.65' N.	69°11.15' W.
91 .....	40°00.05' N.	69°14.6' W.
92 .....	39°57.8' N.	69°20.35' W.
93 .....	39°56.65' N.	69°24.4' W.
94 .....	39°56.1' N.	69°26.35' W.
95 .....	39°56.55' N.	69°34.1' W.
96 .....	39°57.85' N.	69°35.5' W.
97 .....	40°00.65' N.	69°36.5' W.
98 .....	40°00.9' N.	69°37.3' W.
99 .....	39°59.15' N.	69°37.3' W.
100 .....	39°58.8' N.	69°38.45' W.
102 .....	39°56.2' N.	69°40.2' W.
103 .....	39°55.75' N.	69°41.4' W.
104 .....	39°56.7' N.	69°53.6' W.
105 .....	39°57.55' N.	69°54.05' W.
106 .....	39°57.4' N.	69°55.9' W.
107 .....	39°56.9' N.	69°57.45' W.
108 .....	39°58.25' N.	70°03.0' W.
110 .....	39°59.2' N.	70°04.9' W.
111 .....	40°00.7' N.	70°08.7' W.

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

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**(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.**--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]\* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]\*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

(2) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery;

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account--

(A) present participation in the fishery,

(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery,

(C) the economics of the fishery,

(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries,

(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and

(F) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic data) which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research; and

(12) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

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Paperwork Clearance Officer,  
Department of Commerce, Room 6086,  
14th and Constitution Avenue NW,  
Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at  
MClayton@doc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to George Darcy, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1 Blackburn Circle, Gloucester, MA, 01930, (978)281-9331, fax (978) 281-9135.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

Regulations of 50 CFR 648.8 and 697.8 require that all vessels with Federal permits to fish in the Northeast display the vessel's official number. The numbers must be in a specific size at specified locations. The display of the identifying number aids in fishery law enforcement.

**II. Method of Collection**

No information is collected. The official number must be displayed on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull and on a weather deck.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0350.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,821.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 45 minutes (15 minutes for each of three markings).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 4,363.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$58,000.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 1, 2001.

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-11548 Filed 5-7-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D.050301B]

**Northeast Region Gear Identification Requirements**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Proposed information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 9, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to George Darcy, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1 Blackburn Circle, Gloucester, MA, 01930, (978)281-9331, fax (978)281-9135.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

Regulations (50 CFR 648.81(f), 648.84, 648.123(b)(3), 648.144(b), and 697.21) require that Federal fishing permit holders using specified fishing gear mark that gear with specified information (the official vessel numbers, Federal permit number, tag number, or other method identified in the regulation). The regulations also specify

how the gear is to be marked (e.g. location and visibility). Marking of gear aids law enforcement and also helps identify gear involved in damage, loss, or civil proceedings.

**II. Method of Collection**

No information is collected.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0351.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,859.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 1 minute per marking.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 36,417.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$65,115.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 1, 2001.

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-11549 Filed 5-7-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 050301C]

**Southwest Region Vessel Identification Requirements**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).